REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were pending in the application. Claims 13 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims

Objection to the Drawings:

Applicant has amended the drawings, and submits that they comply with all formal requirements. Applicant has left many of the reference characters as numerals, which complies with 37 CFR 1.84. Applicant notes that 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1) states the following:

> (1) Reference characters (**numerals are preferred**), sheet numbers, and view numbers must be plain and legible, and must not be used in association with brackets or inverted commas, or enclosed within outlines, *e.g.*, encircled. They must be oriented in the same direction as the view so as to avoid having to rotate the sheet. Reference characters should be arranged to follow the profile of the object depicted. (Emphasis added)

Applicant also notes that various portions of the specification have been amended in order to conform to the amendments to the drawings.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection:

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has cancelled claims 13 and 15, while amending claim 14 to be dependent upon claim 7. In light of the amendment and claim cancellations, Applicant submits that the § 101 rejection is now moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection:

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Garret, U.S. Patent 6,877,033. With respect to the cancelled claims, this rejection is believed moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The cited reference fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims. Garret teaches a network-based integrated device identification and ordering system wherein "[t]echniques are provided <u>for designing a circuit</u> that satisfies user-specified functional requirements without the user having to obtain additional education or possess specialized software. According to one embodiment, user-specified functional requirements are received over a network from a client executing a browser. The network may be, for example, the Internet. <u>Based on the user-specified requirements, components and a topology for constructing the circuit are automatically determined</u>. <u>The components determined during this operation have operational values such that, when the components are arranged according to the topology to form the circuit,</u> the circuit satisfies the user-specified functional requirements. One or more web pages that identify the components are then delivered to the browser over the network. According to one aspect of the invention, the component and topology information is used to generate a schematic diagram that is delivered in a web page to the user over the network. According to another aspect of the invention, the user is provided with a web page that has a control which, when selected, initiates an operation for placing an order over said network for one of the components, a kit of all of the components, a custom made circuit made from the components, and/or a prefabricated circuit that is functionally similar to the one that was designed." (Abstract, Garrett; emphasis added).

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 recites:

> A method of generating identification information relating to <u>a component of a computer network</u> having an associated memory storing a first set of data items relating to the component, comprising retrieving one or more of said first set of data items from said associated memory and generating said identifying information from said retrieved data items. (Emphasis added).

Independent claim 7 recites, in pertinent part:

A method of operating a computer network including a first network component and a second network component **linked to** the first network component by a communication network, the second network component being operable to perform a network management application wherein a request for identification information is sent via the communications network to the first network component ... (Emphasis added).

In the office action, the Examiner contends that Garrett substantially teaches the combinations of features recited in the independent claims. In support of this contention, the Examiner cites Garrett in, among other places, col. 4, line 4-5, col. 1, lines 24-25, and col. 2, lines 52-53. Applicant submits that the "components" referred to in these citations are *electrical* or *electronic* components that are to be included in a circuit to be designed utilizing the system of Garrett, and are not **network** components as recited in the independent claims. Furthermore, Garrett does not teach or suggest "a second network component linked to [a] first network component", nor does Garrett teach that "the second network component [is] operable to perform a network management application" as recited in claim 7.

In col. 4, lines 1-5, Garrett teaches the following:

Based on the requirements information, a component determination module 112 determines the components that could be used to build a circuit that would satisfy the specified requirements, and generates one or more "suggested component" web pages. (Emphasis added).

In col. 1, lines 22-25, Garrett states:

To avoid having to pay the marked up prices that would be required by a third party, the user may attempt to become educated on circuit design, and obtain parts catalogs from **circuit component** suppliers. (Emphasis added).

In col. 2, lines 52-54, Garrett states:

> Techniques are described that allow online identification <u>and ordering</u> <u>components that satisfy user-specified circuit requirements</u>. (Emphasis added).
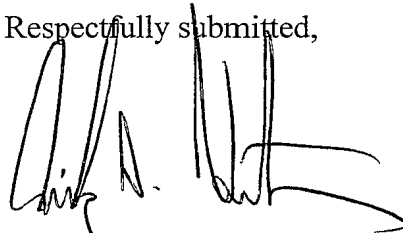
In each of the above citations, which include those portions cited by the Examiner in support of the rejection, the components referred to are circuit components that are to be used <u>in a circuit design</u>. These components are not network components as recited in claims 1 and 7, nor is there any teaching or suggestion that these components are linked by a communications network, as are the first and second network components recited in claim 7. Nothing in Garrett, including the teachings from the citations above, is directed to "[a] method of generating identification information relating to <u>a component of a</u> <u>computer network</u>" as recited in claim 1, or "[a] method of <u>operating a computer network</u> including a <u>first network component</u> and <u>a second network component</u> **linked to** <u>the first</u> <u>network component by a communication network</u>" as recited in claim 7. Thus, Garrett fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims.

In light of Garrett's failure to teach or suggest all of the elements of the independent claims, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection.

Conclusion:

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505\5681-74800.

Respectfully submitted,

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